

GOLD
KEY

THE LONE RANGER

GIANT COMIC 25c

the Lone Ranger

GOLDEN WEST



THE LONE RANGER FINDS DAN REID!
TONTO MEETS BAD MEDICINE!
SILVER RETURNS TO WILD HORSE VALLEY!





THE LONE RANGER



HIS MASK

To most people a black eye mask means an outlaw. But, in The Lone Ranger's case, his mask stands for a mysterious lawman.

When The Lone Ranger left the cave where Tonto had helped restore him to his former strength, he found six graves outside. But Tonto had buried only five Rangers in those graves. He had made the sixth grave so that if the outlaws who had attacked the Texas Rangers returned, they would think no one had escaped their ambush and would not try to track down the one surviving Ranger.

So that all outlaws would believe he was buried in that empty grave and never know the identity of their relentless foe, The Lone Ranger donned his famous black mask.

Now, his true name known to but a handful of men, The Lone Ranger carries on his fight for law and order, knowing his is the one mask that strikes fear, not in the hearts of law-abiding settlers, but in the hearts of the lawless.







AS GUNS BLAZE ACROSS THE VALLEY THE WOMEN VALIANTLY RELOAD THE WEAPONS—



BUT AS MORE AND MORE OF THE MEN FALL FROM THE FIGHTING LINE, THE PIONEER WOMEN TAKE UP THEIR RIFLES—



THERE! ...HE CAN BREATHE EASILY! NOW TO GET THIS TRUNK TO A PLACE WHERE IT MAY BE SAFE!



DANNY! THEY'RE CLUST'RING US DOWN ONE BY ONE! KEEP FIRING! WE'VE GOT TO FORCE 'EM BACK!

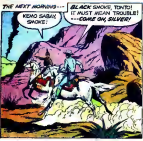


DANNY, THERE'S LITTLE HOPE THAT WE'LL DRIVE THEM OFF! BUT MAYBE I CAN HIDE YOU IN THE FALSE BOTTOM OF THIS TRUNK!



IF I PUSH THIS WAGON SO IT WILL GO OFF FAR ENOUGH, THE ARCHES MAY BE SO BUSY LOOTING THE REST OF THE TRAIN THEY MAY NOT FIND THE TRUNK! THEN, IF I SURVIVE, I MAY BE ABLE TO RESCUE DANNY LATER!

AS THE FIRMS CONTINUE, THE LOOSE WAGON JOSH DOWNHILL, COMING TO A STOP BY THE BANK OF THE ROCKY STREAM...





THERE ONE WAGON
APPROX. NOT
BURN!

I IMAGINE THEY FOUND ENOUGH
WITH WHICH TO BUY THEMSELVES
AT THE REST OF THE TRAIN! WE'LL
RIDE DOWN AND SEE WHAT WE CAN
LEARN FROM THAT WAGON!



TRUNK
OPEN---

...YES, TONY, AND IT
HAD A FALSE BOTTOM
THAT'S BEEN LEFT OPEN,
TOO!



WHAT MATTER,
KEAD SAGAY?

THIS NAME PLATE ---IT
BEARS MY SISTER-IN-LAW'S
NAME---LINDA RIVER!



THEN SHE CAME WEST
WITH WAGONS! HE
SORRY!

YOU REMEMBER, TONY,
HOW THE CAVENDISH
GANG AMBUSHED MY
BROTHER AND THE
OTHER TEXAS RANGERS
IN BRYANT'S GAP---



*"I THINK MY BROTHER HAD A PREMONITION
THAT SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN TO HIM!
JUST BEFORE HE RODE INTO THE GAP HE
CALLED ME ASIDE---*

*MY WIFE AND SON ARE
COMING FROM THE EAST! IF SOME-
THING HAPPENS TO ME AND YOU
SURVIVE---WELL---I KNOW YOU'LL
TAKE CARE OF LINDA AND DANNY!*

"I SAID... HUH... MY WORD! I HOWLED AND LAUGHED OFF HIS REQUEST! SUDDENLY, AS HE ENTERED THE VALLEY, WE WERE ATTACKED! IN THE FIGHTING, MY BROTHER WAS HORRIBLY WOUNDED--"



BAH!

IT'S NOT
DOING---TO MAKE IT
BACK---

REMEMBER YOUR PROMISE---
RESIGN FROM THE RANGERS---
WORK THE SILVER MINE WE
STAKED OUT---USE THE---
MONEY---HELP LINDA
AND DANNY---

I PROMISE!
I PROMISE!



SOME TIME INDIAN
CARRY OFF WOMEN
AND CHILDREN! MESS
THEY CAPTIVES---
MESS THEY
ALIVE!

IT'S A FAIR HOPE, TOMTO!
I'LL FOLLOW THE RANGERS'
TRAIL! RIDE FOR FORT
LAGARME AND TELL THEM
WHAT HAPPENED! LET
THEM SEND SOME MEN HERE
TO TAKE CARE OF THOSE
FOUR SOULS WHILE THE
REST FOLLOW THE TRAIL.
I'LL BLAZE TO THE
APACHE CAMP!



COME ON,
DANNY!

GET HIM ON
SECURE!



UNTIL NIGHTFALL, THE LONG RANGER FOLLOWS THE RANGERS' TRAIL, DEBATE THEIR EFFORTS TO
COVER IT UNTIL, SUDDENLY...

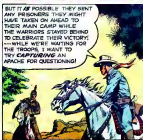
THEY'VE MADE CAMP!... BUT WHILE THEY'RE
HOLDING THEIR VICTORY DANCE, PERHAPS I
CAN CRAWL CLOSER AND FIND OUT WHETHER
LINDA AND DANNY ARE PRISONERS!





ONE BY ONE, THE LONE RANGER STEALTHILY
EXAMINES THE TENTS---









I SUSPECT
YIMBACHERRY--

YOU'RE WRONG, COLONEL! I'VE
LOCATED THE APACHE CAMP
AND I'LL TAKE YOU THERE! BUT
GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES MORE TO
QUESTION THE APACHE BRAVE
BEFORE YOU ATTACK!



WHY THE DELAY, RENEGADE!
--NEED MORE TIME TO
SET UP YOUR **AMBUSH?**

DON'T LET AN **ASS**
MISLEAD YOU, COLONEL!

REQUESTING A BRIEF
DELAY IS TO ALLOW ME TO
FINISH QUESTIONING THIS
APACHE! I WANT TO LEARN IF
ANY **PRISONERS** WERE
TAKEN BEFORE WE ATTACK THEIR
CAMP!--ONCE HE ANSWERS ME,
I'LL PERSONALLY LEAD THE
ATTACK TO PROVE WHOSE
SIDE I'M ON!



ALL RIGHT, HARKED
HARK! YOU'LL BE
LEADING THE WAY--
BUT I'LL BE RIGHT
BEHIND YOU WITH
THIS **PISTOL**!

NOW SPEAK UP! WERE
ANY PRISONERS TAKEN?
--WAS A **BABY**
RESCUED FROM THE
WAGON TRAIN?



AS THE **LONG ARMED** QUESTIONS HIM, THE
APACHE FINALLY SPEAKS--

NO PRISONERS-- ALL
KILLED! BUT AM **NOT** SEE
ANY **BABY** KILLED--OR
TAKEN BY A BRAVE!



THEN THERE'S STILL
HOPE FOR **DANNY**!--
ALL RIGHT, SIR! I'LL
SHOW YOU THE WAY!

RIDE! AND
REMEMBER--
ANY TRICKS AND
YOU'LL STOP A
BULLET!



SHORTLY-- THERE'S THE APACHE
CAMP, COLONEL! THEY'VE
NOT HEARD US APPROACH!
COME ON--

OH-HO-HO!
WITTING!





THIS METAL NAME PLATE SAVED MY LIFE, TONTO! AND IF MY SISTER-IN-LAW AND NEPHEW ARE ALIVE, WE MUST FIND THEM!... IF THEY'RE DEAD, WE MUST LEARN WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM! THE SEARCH WILL *CONTINUE!*... IN THE MEANTIME, WE'LL TRY TO MAKE THE WEST A PLACE WHERE A MASSACRE LIKE THAT ONE CAN'T HAPPEN AGAIN!



BUT THIRTEEN LONG YEARS GO BY WITHOUT ANY NEWS OF THE LOW BANNER'S FAMILY. THEN ONE DAY IN THE HIGH BORDER COUNTRY OF THE NORTHWEST THE LOW BANNER AND TONTO ARRIVE AT GREAT CAMP...

SO FAR, KENO BABBY WE NOT FIND ANY TRACE OF GANG THAT RAID LOW FARMHOUSES!

WE'LL CONTINUE MAKING OUR SWEEP THROUGH THE AREA, TONTO, UNTIL WE DO GET A LINE ON THOSE VICIOUS OUTLAWS!



KENO BABBY, LISTEN!

A HORSE!... SOMEBODY'S COMING UP THE ROAD QUICKLY!



KEEP! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP MY GRANDMA, NISTER! OUTLAWS ARE RAIDING OUR FARMHOUSE!

HOUNT UP, TONTO!



W-HO--YOU'RE *MAKING!* YOU'RE ONE OF THE GANG!

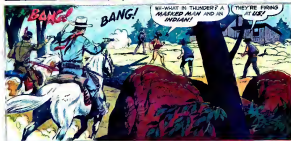
NO, SON! I'M NOT AN OUTLAW, BUT I HAVEN'T TIME TO EXPLAIN WHY I'M MASKED! WHERE'S YOUR FARM?



AFABY! I'M NOT LEADING YOU THERE... YOU'VE HELP! THE OTHER OUTLAWS!

IF YOU DON'T LEAD US THERE THEY MAY RAID THE FARM, ANYWAY!... IF YOU TRUST US AND TAKE US THERE, THEN THERE'S A CHANCE WE WILL DRIVE THEM AWAY!







WITH THE IMMEDIATE DANGER PAST GRANDMA FRISKY SEEMS WELL AT FIRST, BUT LATER, AFTER THE GANG HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE LAW, SHE FEELS THE FIGHT HAS BEEN TOO GREAT A STRAIN ON HER AGING HEART...

I-I KNOW WHO YOU ARE...YOU'RE THE LONE RANGER! I THINK YOU'VE COME JUST IN TIME--I'LL NOT BE HERE MUCH LONGER--TO LIKE HOW TO TAKE CARE OF DAN!

YOUR GRANDSON WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF!... NOW TRY TO GET SOME SLEEP!



THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF TIME FOR SLEEP SOON... BUT FIRST YOU GOT TO KNOW DAN'S AUNT REALLY MY GRANDCHILD!

I-I'M NOT? BUT, GRANDMA FRISKY, I-I ALWAYS THOUGHT--



LET ME FINISH, DAN! THERE'S A SMALL BOY UNDER MY BED---HAND IT TO ME! IT CONTAINS DAN'S BABY CLOTHES, LONG PANTS, AND A GOLD LOCKET HE WORE THIRTEEN YEARS AGO---



"YOU SEE, I WAS COMING WEST WITH A WAGON TRAIN WHEN WE WERE ATTACKED BY APACHES! THERE WAS A FINE YOUNG LADY TRAVELING WITH OUR PARTY AND SHE HAD A BABY BOY! IN THE LAST DESPERATE MOMENTS OF THAT UNEVEN BATTLE, I SAW HER HIDE HER SMALL BOY IN THE PALISH BOTTOM OF A TRUNK---



THEY WERE SENT THE WAGON ROLLING OFF BY THEMSELVES, HOPING BY SOME MIRACLE, THE APACHES WOULD LEAVE IT ALONE---



"THE FIGHT ENDED WHEN THEY BROKE THROUGH OUR CIRCLE OF WAGONS! BY LUCK, I WAS HIDDEN UNDER THE BEANS AND SOON, THE SMOKE OF THE BURNING WAGONS FURTHER CONCEALED ME FROM THE LOOTING BRIGS---



"ALL DAY I REMAINED HIDDEN, EVEN WHEN I COULD FEEL THE HOT FLAMES HEARING ME! AT NIGHTFALL, AS THE APACHES SLOWLY MOVED OFF, I CRAWLED FROM THE HIDEOUT! I LOOKED TOWARD THE STREAM FIRST--THE LONG WAGON WAS UNTOUCHED---



"QUICKLY I CREEPT TO THE WAGON! THE BABY WAS STILL SAFE! BUT AS I LIFTED HIM OUT OF THE TRUNK, HE CRIED LOUDLY AND I KNEW THE APACHES WERE STILL WITHIN HEARING---



I COVERED THE BABY'S MOUTH QUIETLY AND
FLOATED DOWNSTREAM AS THE APACHE'S BOAT
BACK TO INVESTIGATE THE CRAY...



HEAVEN WATCHED OVER US! WE REACHED A
SETTLER'S CABIN SAFELY! THEN I JOURNEYED UP
NORTH HERE AND RAISED DAN AS MY GRANDSON!
I CALLED DAN DAN BECAUSE THAT WAS THE
NAME OF THE MAN WHOSE PICTURE
IS INSIDE THIS LOCKET!



THIS MAN---YOUR FATHER---
IS MY BROTHER!



Y. YOUR
BROTHER?

HE WAS A CAPTAIN OF THE TEXAS
RANGERS AND ONE OF THE BRAVEST
MEN IN THE COUNTRY! HE DIED IN A
BATTLE. I ALONE SURVIVED! YOUR
MOTHER WAS A WONDERFUL LADY
FROM VIRGINIA! HER NAME
WAS LINDA!



I NEVER
KNEW DAN'S
LAST NAME---

---HIS NAME IS ~~ANDY~~ THE
SAME AS MINE!---I'VE BEEN
LOOKING FOR YOU FOR MANY
YEARS, DAN---EVER SINCE
YOUR FATHER DIED! FROM NOW
ON, IF YOU'RE WILLING, WE'LL
TRAVEL TOGETHER!



I'D LIKE THAT---BUT
GRANDMA FRISBY AND
I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN
TOGETHER---

---I KNOW, DAN, THE TIME
HAS COME AT LAST FOR US
TO PART! B-BUT IT'S
EASIER LEAVING KNOWING
YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS
---WITH YOUR UNCLE!---







BUT AS THEY APPROACH THE CAMP IN THE
HILD BORDER HILLS, A GUARD'S BINOCULARS
FOCUSES ON THEM---



BECAUSE WE'VE MORE THAN A
SCORE OF MEN WHO DON'T WANT
THEIR FACES SEEN, BUT BLACKIE
WARNED ME AGAINST LETTING IN
ONE PINKISH MAN WHO RIDES
A WHITE STALLION---GET HIM!



THEY SEE US!



INTO THE GULCH!



BLACKIE MUST HAVE ALERTED
HIS GUARDS FOR US!---BUT
WE'LL STAY HERE ANYHILE
AND WATCH THE ROAD
LEADING TO THEIR
CAMP!



AN HOUR LATER---

RIDER HEAD FOR
GUARDS PLenty
FAST!

HE'S CARRYING SOMETHING
IN HIS HAND TONIGHT!---A
LETTER!





AT THE FIRST RELAY STATION, AS SOON AS THE RIDER IS SIGHTED A POSTED HORSE IS LED OUT--



AS THE RIDER WAITS ON TO THE NEW HORSE, THE MOCHILA IS QUICKLY TRANSFERRED--



BUT THREE RELAY STATIONS LATER, THE MOCHILA POCKET IS UNLOCKED AND THE LOCAL RIDER MAKES THE DELIVERY--



NOW TO SEE WHAT THE MAN WHO RECEIVED THE BROWN ENVELOPE DOES!



LATER--

WHATEVER'S IN THOSE CRATES --SURE MAKES THE STAGE SAG, MR. COLLINS!

YOU'RE GETTING WELL RHD TO HAUL THOSE MACHINE PARTS! JUST GET THEM TO GUARDO SAFELY!



HAI LOID PLENTY CRATES ON TO STAGE!

IF WE FOLLOW THAT STAGE, TONIG, WE MAY LEARN ABOUT BLACKIE'S SENT FOR!







BUTTE! BUTTE!...WE'RE OUT OF LUCK!
TWO LEADSLINGERS JOINED THE
STAGE CREW AND DROVE US OFF!



GREAT! I DELIBERATELY ADDRESSED THOSE
CRATES TO A ~~NON-EXISTENT~~ PERSON SO
THEY COULDN'T BE TRACED TO US! NOW
THAT YOU'VE BUNGLED STEALING 'EM ON THE
HIGHWAY---YOU'LL HAVE TO GET 'EM BY ROBBING
THE EXPRESS OFFICE IN GUARDO!



LATER BY GUARDO---

TOMTO CHECK ALL DOWN
EL DORADO STREET, KENO
SABAY! THERE NO NUMBER
10 AND NO ONE EVER HEAR
OF FELLER NAMED TAD
PARKS!



THOSE CRATES MIGHT HAVE
BEEN ADDRESSED FALSLY
SO NO ONE COULD TRACE
THEM FROM THE SENDER
TO BLACKE WILSON! THAT
WOULD MEAN HE NOW HAS
TO GET THEM BY HOLDING
UP THE EXPRESS
OFFICE!

THEN WE GO THERE
PLENTY FAST!



MEANWHILE---

OH-B THE CRATES! I'LL MAKE
SURE NO ONE IS AROUND TO
TRAIL US!

D-DON'T SHOOT!







BOOM!!!
REIN IN, AUSTER!
NO OUTLAW
PASSES THROUGH
THIS GATE!

TAKE ME TO YOUR
COMMANDANT
AT ONCE!



THAT'S JUST WHERE I'M
PLANNING TO TAKE YOU!
---HAWK TOLON, KEEP
AN EYE ON THE
INDIAN!

USH! ME WATCH-UM!



CAPTAIN NELSON,
HE CLAIMS HE
CAME TO SEE
YOU!

THIS SILVER
BULLET MAY
IDENTIFY ME!

A SILVER BULLET?
DOESN'T MEAN
ANYTHING TO ME!



I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT
TO DISCUSS WITH YOU, CAPTAIN!
COLONEL RYDER WILL VOUCH
FOR ME! TONYO AND I HAVE
WORKED WITH HIM BEFORE!

IT'D TAKE
A DISCREET
RIDER OVER-
NIGHT TO
BRING WORD
FROM HIS
FORT!



CAPTAIN, IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE
I'M A FRIEND OF THE ARMY,
DESPITE MY MASK, YOU'LL
NOT BELIEVE WHAT I CAME
TO TELL YOU! THE MATTER
IS URGENT! --TELEGRAPH
COLONEL RYDER TO
IDENTIFY ME!

YOU *SOUND*
SINCERE---WELL,
WE HAVE A
DIRECT LINE TO
FORT VALIANT,
MIGHT AS WELL
USE IT!



BUT AS THE ARMY TELEGRAPHER WOUND THE
KEY AND STARTS SPINDING OFF HIS MESSAGE IN
MORSE CODE, SUDDENLY---

CAPTAIN!---THE LINE TO
FORT VALIANT JUST
WENT DEAD!

Abstract

THERE! THAT SHOULD
TAKE CARE OF THE
ARMY LINE JUST
AS BLACHE
ORDERED!

NOW WE'VE GOT
 TO KEEP GUARD AND
 MAKE SURE NO
 ONE STEALS IT!

CAPTAIN, I EXPECTED
THE LINE WOULD BE
CUT

THEN YOU THINK
SOMEONE DELIBERATELY
CUT IT. BUT WHAT IF

FOR TWO WEEKS, BLACKIE WILSON HAS BEEN RECRUITING HANGARONS ALONG THE BORDER. TODAY, THEY RECEIVED WINCHESTER RIFLES! A HUNDRED AND FIFTY ARMED MEN CAN MEAN ONLY ONE THING...AN ARMED INSURRECTION!

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

YES! CLAIM TO THIS BORDER AREA IS STILL BEING NEGOTIATED BY OUR GOVERNMENT AND MEXICO! IF WILTON CAN TAKE IT OVER AND SET HIMSELF UP BEFORE ~~ANYONE'S~~ GOVERNMENT ACTS, IT WILL BE A TERRIBLE DIPLOMATIC SITUATION! TO AVOID SENDING TROOPS INTO THE DISPUTED ZONE, WILTON MAY THEN HAVE TO BE ~~BOUGHT OFF!~~

I HAVEN'T MUCH CHANCE
WITH THIRTY MEN
AGAINST A FORCE
FIVE TIMES AS
LARGE!

LET ME TAKE THE
TELEGRAPH KEY
AND TRY CUTTING INTO
THE LINE FURTHER
ALONG! I MAY BE ABLE
TO SIGNAL PORT
VALENT FOR HELP!

THE KEY'S NO USE TO ME
NOW! BUT IF YOU'RE RIGHT,
WHOEVER CUT THE LINE'S
SURE TO BE **GUZZLING**



IT'S ALMOST DARK NOW---WE'LL SOON BE SAFE! THEN WE'LL DOUBLE BACK TOWARD WILTON'S CAMP AND SEE WHAT HE'S UP TO!



THAT RIGHT---

HE'S THE LAST MAN, BUTT! NOW THEY'RE ALL ARMED!



MEN, IF WE CAN TAKE OVER THIS DISPUTED AREA BEFORE ANY TROOPS CAN MOVE IN --- IT'LL TAKE A LOT OF DOLLARS AND PESOS TO BUY US OUT! ---MOUNT UP!



EXACTLY THE ARMED MEN RIDE FROM THEIR CAMP---

THERE'S OUR AGENT'S FLASHING FROM AULINDO! IT MEANS THE TOWN'S CLEAR OF TROOPS!

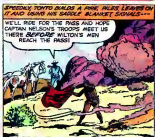


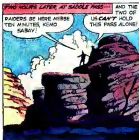
SLOWLY THE SLEEPY TOWN ECHOES WITH THE HOOFBEATS OF MANY HORSES---



LOOK UP THE MAYOR AND SHERIFF IN THE JAIL! TEN OF YOU STAY HERE TO KEEP THINGS UNDER CONTROL!---THE REST, PUSH ON!







AGAIN AND AGAIN THE LONE RANGER USES THE SUN'S REFLECTED LIGHT TO FLASH HIS URGENT CALL FOR HELP...



THAT'S THE LAST SIGNAL I CAN GET OFF, TONTOK! NOW ALL WE CAN DO IS FIGHT AND HOPE!



BUT BY NOW BULLETS SUDDENLY CUT DOWN FROM ABOVE THE PASS---





LOST TREASURES OF THE WEST



GERONIMO'S LOST MINE



THE LOST COWBOY MINE



ADAMS' BURIED TREASURE

After a disastrous fight with the U.S. Army, Geronimo, the great Apache warrior chief, found himself imprisoned in the stockade at Fort Sill. He told one of his guards of a fabulous mine where the Apaches mined the "green beads" that they used for ornaments and where they mined their gold. The guard promised to help the Chief escape if the Indian would guide him to the mine. But the plot was discovered and the guard was sent to prison. Later, Geronimo himself was exiled to a reservation in Florida, far from his secret mine. Even today, prospectors search for the mines of the Apaches. The gold mine is said to be located in the bottom of a deep box canyon near an old adobe house. The Apaches regularly traded gold for guns and ammunition, food, and clothing. The mine must have been very rich, but to this date remains undiscovered.

About sixty years ago, an old corral stood on the banks of the Colorado River north of Yuma, Arizona. It was built of adobe blocks. Cowboys used it to gather wandering steers until they could muster enough cowpunchers to drive a herd back to their home ranches. Near the corral was a low round hill, covered with black, rounded pieces of heavy stone or metal. The cowboys often threw the stones at the half-wild steers to frighten them through the corral gate. Gradually, as permanent settlers came into the territory, the corral was abandoned. One of the cowboys went back East to his childhood home, and took a few of the strange, heavy stones with him. Years later, a friend of his who was a mining expert examined them and discovered that they were almost pure lumps of solid gold, although tarnished black due to long exposure to the weather. Since then, hundreds of men have tried to find the Lost Cowboy Mine and its acres of gold nuggets. None have succeeded. Either the old corral was gradually washed away by stones, or someone secretly destroyed it to conceal the mine's location.

Many years ago a man named Adams and six others discovered a rich mine near the headwaters of the Gila River in Arizona. They built a small cabin and worked the mine hard. Their greatest danger lay in being discovered by the raiding Apaches. One day, Adams and one of his partners left the camp for town. The first night they camped on a high hill and looked back toward the mine. The cabin was in flames and the blaze of gunfire lit the surrounding sky. The Apaches had killed all their friends. After struggling on for many miles across the desert, the two men were discovered, half starved and in a delirious state. Adams' partner was killed a short time later. For years, Adams could not re-enter the territory which was infested with hostile Indians. When he finally went back, after many years, he was unable to locate the mine. His landmark, the cabin, had been completely destroyed. There must be at least \$50,000 worth of gold buried under the site of the cabin.





SOON THE TRIBE GATHERS AROUND ITS WOUNDED CHIEF AS THE MEDICINE MAN, THUNDER CLOUD, REMOVES THE ENEMY ARROW—

YOU TOOK THE ARROW OUT CLEANLY, THUNDER CLOUD! CAN YOU TREAT HIS WOUND NOW?

YES, TONTO! THE GREAT SPIRIT HAS BLESSED ME WITH GOOD HANDS! BUT THE WOUND WOULD HEAL FASTER IF THOSE WHO CAUSED IT WERE SWIFTLY PUNISHED!



DO NOT TALK OF PUNISHMENT! TONTO WOUNDED ONE OF THE AMBUSHERS! THE SCORE IS EVEN—ANY FURTHER ATTACK WOULD ONLY LEAD TO A TRIBAL WAR! LET THE OTHERS GO!



STONE BEAR HAS SPOKEN—WE WILL LET THEM ESCAPE!—NOW, LET ME FIX HIS WOUND! RUNNING BLK, BRING ME THE ROOF OF THE PURPLE CONE PLANT!



QUICKLY, THE GUARDIAN'S ASSISTANT FINDS THE SINGLE-ROOTED PLANT AND CHWES SOME OF ITS BLACK ROOT...



THEN, THUNDER CLOUD CAREFULLY PUTS THE DARKISH PASTE OVER STONE BEAR'S WOUND---



THE NEXT DAY---

HOW ARE YOU, STONE BEAR?

BETTER!



I CAN MOVE MY ARM FREELY THANKS TO THUNDER CLOUD'S MEDICINE!



LOOK! THUNDER CLOUD HAS CURED STONE BEAR QUICKLY!

VERY QUICKLY! THUNDER CLOUD'S MEDICINE MUST INDEED BE GOOD!



YOU HAVE DONE WELL, THUNDER CLOUD!

WOULD HEAL COMPLETELY IF HE WOULD BUT LET ME SEND OFF BRUTES TO PURSUE THE ATTACKERS!



AND AS THUNDER CLOUD'S PRESTIGE INCREASED, THUNDER SPIES MORE OF HIS THUNDERMEN SEEKING ADVICE FROM THE SHAMAN---



MY HEAD RINGS ME CONTINUALLY THUNDER CLOUD!

THE CURE FOR THIS HEADACHE IS SIMPLE! MY SKILLED HAND WILL MASSAGE YOUR TEMPLE!



AND AROUND A BOY'S TENT, THUNDER CLOUD DANCES, SINGING A SACRED CHANT TO SCARE OFF THE BAD MEDICINE---



FOR A WOMAN COMPLAINED OF AMYGOUSNESS, THUNDER CLOUD DRING THE ROOTS OF THE SEDGE GRASS---



HERE! EAT THIS NOW!

LATER--- MY SON IS BETTER, THUNDER CLOUD! AND MY HEADACHE WAS GONE SINCE YOU TREATED ME!



MY HAND NO LONGER TREMBLES LIKE AN ASPEN LEAF!



PROOF---ALL, PROOF THAT THE GREAT SPIRIT FAVORS THUNDER CLOUD WITH GOOD MEDICINE! AND THUNDER CLOUD SAYS THE GREAT SPIRIT WOULD GIVE OUR WAR PARTY GOOD MEDICINE IF WE ATTACKED THE CAMP OF STONE BEAR'S AVENGEES!

THUNDER CLOUD WAS SHOWN
THAT THE GREAT SPIRIT
FORSOOK HIM!

PERHAPS WE SHOULD
STREAK OUR FACES
WITH RED PAINT?



AND STONE BEAR IS CHIEF, NOT THUNDER CLOUD!
STONE BEAR HAS SPOKEN AGAINST PURSUING THE
RAIDERS! ONE WAS WOUNDED ON EACH SIDE---ANY
FURTHER FIGHTING WOULD BRING BOTH TRIBES
TO BATTLE! KEEP STONE BEAR'S COUNCIL!



YONTO'S ADVICE WENT OUT, BUT TWO DAYS LATER,
STONE BEAR IS VERY SICK---

T-TONTI---I AM
WEAK---SO WEAK---I CANNOT
---RAISE MYSELF FROM HERE---



YOUR PULSE IS FAST! I
HAVE SEEN PEOPLE LIKE
THIS BEFORE! THEY ALL
HAD SMALLPOX!



SMALLPOX? THAT IS THE FOOLISH TALK OF ONE WHO
HAS LIVED AMONG THE WHITE MEN!---STONE BEAR
SUFFERS FROM THE AFTEREFFECTS OF THE CROW
ARROW! IT HAS JOINED WITH
BAD MEDICINE!



SHALLPOW AS A DISEASE
THAT THE WHITE MAN
ALONE CAN CURE!

I COULD CURE OUR CHIEF
IF I WERE ALLOWED TO LEAD
OUR PEOPLE AGAINST THE
CROW! THEN THEIR BAD MEDICINE
WOULD BE BROKEN AND STONE
BEAR WOULD RECOVER!



STONE BEAR DOES
NOT WANT WAR---

---VERY WELL! I SHALL
NOT ORGANIZE A WAR
PARTY! BUT I AND NOW
SOME WHITE DOCTOR
SHALL TREAT OUR
CHIEF!



BUT THE WHITE DOCTORS
HAVE SPECIAL MEDICINE---

---MY PEOPLE, HEAR ME! WHO WOULD YOU HAVE
TREAT YOUR CHIEF? A STRANGER, COMING WITH
HIS EMPLOYMENT MEDICINE---OR THUNDER
CLOUD, WHO HAS OFTEN SHOWN YOU
HIS MEDICINE IS GOOD?



THUNDER CLOUD CURED
MY SQUAW OF NERVOUS-
NESS AND HEALED
MANY BRAVES' WOUNDS!

LET THUNDER CLOUD
TREAT STONE BEAR!
WE NEED NO STRANGE
MEDICINE MAN HERE!



THUNDER CLOUD IS CLEVER! HE SEEKS ONLY TO
INCREASE HIS PRESTIGE AND REALIZES IF A
WHITE DOCTOR CURED STONE BEAR, IT WOULD
PROVE THAT A CROW ARROW DID NOT CAUSE
STONE BEAR'S ILLNESS!



CAREFULLY THUNDER CLOUD COLLECTS JUMPER BERRIES FOR HIS MEDICINE---



THEN HE BREWS THE BERRIES INTO A TEA, ADDING TO IT THE LEAVES OF THE SAGEBRUSH---



AND WHILE STONE BEAR GIVES STONE BEAR THE HOT DRINK, THUNDER CLOUD AND TWO OF HIS ASSISTANTS DANCE ABOUT THE TENT OF THEIR SICK CHIEF---



ALL DAY STONE BEAR IS FED NOTHING BUT JUMPER TEA---



BUT AT NIGHTFALL, THE CHIEF IS STILL ILL---



HIS PULSE REMAINS FAST, AND NOW HE IS EVEN **WEAKER!**
ALL THE JUMPER BERRIES ON THE PLAINS CANNOT CURE STONE BEAR!



IF, BY SOME MIRACLE, STONE BEAR SHOULD RECOVER, THUNDER CLOUD KNOWS HIS CLAIM THAT THE ILLNESS WAS CAUSED BY A CROW ARROW WILL BE BELIEVED! THEN HE WOULD LEAD OUR PEOPLE TO WAR---



AND IF NO WHITE DOCTOR TREATS STONE BEAR AND HE DIES, THUNDER CLOUD WILL CLAIM CROW MEDICINE IS RESPONSIBLE! AND ONLY **HE** CAN AVENGE HIS DEATH!---**EITHER** COURSE LEADS TO THE WARPATH! IF I AM TO BRING A WHITE DOCTOR HERE, I MUST ACT QUICKLY!



TO THE COUNCIL, FIRST!---TONTA WOULD SPEAK TO YOU!



QUICKLY HIS THIRDESMEN ANSWER THE SUMMONS---

STONE BEAR IS **DYING**!---THUNDER CLOUD **CANNOT** CURE HIM, FOR HE DOES NOT KNOW THE TRUE NATURE OF STONE BEAR'S DISEASE! **I** DO!



I SHALL PROVE IT TO YOU BY PREDICTING THAT, BY TOMORROW, STONE BEAR WILL BREAK OUT WITH **RED SPOTS**!



YOU HAVE HEARD TONTA SPEAK! BUT WHO HAS SEEN TONTA CURE EVEN ONE OF HIS THIRDESMEN? SINCE WHEN HAS TONTA GOOD MEDICINE SUCH AS THUNDER CLOUD ROSSKOSSET? WHAT HE SAYS IS FALSE! THERE WILL BE **NO** RED SPOTS ON STONE BEAR TOMORROW!

BUT THE NEXT MORNING--- RED SPOTS!







THERE SHOULD BE A DOCTOR WITH THE NECESSARY MEDICINE AT THE NEARBY FORT! I WILL TRY THERE FIRST!—*GIF-UN-WE SCOUT!*



RUNNING ELK, YOU AND THE OTHERS DO NOT GIVE ME TIME ENOUGH TO RID STONE BEAR OF THE RED SPOTS! IF A WHITE MAN'S MEDICINE IS USED, THUNDER CLOUD AND HIS ASSISTANTS WILL LOSE PRESTIGE AMONG THEIR PEOPLE—



TONTO WILL TAKE THE SHORTEST WAY BACK FROM THE FORT—

—WE KNOW THE MOUNTAIN TRAIL WELL, THUNDER CLOUD! HE AND THE WHITE MEDICINE MAN SHALL NOT REACH CAMP!



DO NOT FEAR FOR STONE BEAR'S LIFE! I SHALL CURE HIM BEFORE TONTO RETURNS!



TONTO AND THE WHITE MEDICINE MAN COME! MAKE CERTAIN THEY AGREE AND PARTNER!



ARE THE ASSAULTERS LOSING THEM ANYHOW, TONTO AND THE DOCTOR EDGE THEIR HORSES BACK ALONG THE NARROW TRAIL, SEEKING COVER---





SWIFTLY TONTO WHIRLS HIS LARIAT—



CATCHED IT!



LOOK! THEY REACH CAMP AND THE ARMY DOCTOR EXAMINES THE STRETCHER CASE—

TONTO DIAGNOSED THE SYMPTOMS CORRECTLY! STONE BEAR HAS SMALLPOX!

CAN YOU CURE-UM?



THE SERUM IN THIS VACCINATION SHOULD HALT THE DISEASE'S PROGRESS IN TIME—

—MY TRIBESMEN, LOOK! THAT NEEDLE-LIKE THING THE WHITE MEDICINE MAN HOLDS IS LIKE THE CROW **AURORA** THAT HAS CAUSED ALL THIS EVIL. TO INSTALL STONE BEAR! IT IS **BAD MEDICINE!**



THUNDER CLOUD HAS CURED MANY BRAVES—BUT **TOM** SICKNESS IS BEYOND HIS POWERS TO HEAL! LET THE WHITE DOCTOR DO WHAT IS NECESSARY!

THE WAY TO CURE STONE BEAR IS BY FOLLOWING **ME** AGAINST THE **CROW**! AT THEIR CAMP I CAN DESTROY THE BAD MEDICINE THAT PLAGUES OUR CHIEF! THE WHITE SHAMAN'S NEEDLE WILL ONLY **HURT** OUR CHIEF!





I AM CERTAIN WE CAN LEARN MUCH FROM EACH OTHER! PART OF MY WORK OUT WEST IS TO FIND WHAT INDIAN REMEDIES CAN CURE VARIOUS ILLNESSES!

BUT FIRST, THUNDER CLOUD MUST SEE YOUR MEDICINE **WAGON** ON STONE BEAR!



AND WHEN THE TWELVE HOURS END--

HIS PULSE REGULAR NOW!

DOCTOR, STONE BEAR FEELS BETTER--MUCH STRONGER!



STONE BEAR, YOUR SHAMAN ENDANGERED YOUR LIFE TO INCREASE HIS OWN PRESTIGE! I HOPED BY LEADING OUR PEOPLE IN WAR TO GAIN FAME! BUT THE WHITE DOCTOR HAS SHOWN ME NOW BY LIVING IN PEACE AND HELPING MY PEOPLE BY WHAT I CAN LEARN FROM HIM, THUNDER CLOUD CAN WIN GREATER RESPECT THAN A WAR PARTY LEADER COULD EVER RECEIVE!



TONTO, IF WE'RE TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE, **ALL** OF YOUR PEOPLE SHOULD BE **VACCINATED**!



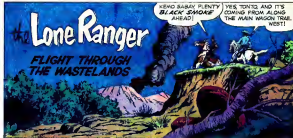
LISTEN, MY PEOPLE! THE WHITE DOCTOR'S MEDICINE IS **GOOD**! IT WILL PROTECT US ALL! SEE! THUNDER CLOUD SEEMS TO BE **POPPY** TO GET THE MEDICINE--IN THE ARM--THAT SINGS--ONE!



LATER-- OUR PEOPLE ARE ALL SAFE NOW, STONE BEAR! TONTO HAS TAUGHT ME A MAN DOES NOT LOSE HONOR BECAUSE HE ADMITS IGNORANCE OR SOME SCORN AND SEEKS HELP FROM ANOTHER! THANKS TO TONTO, I SHALL BRING THE WHITE MAN'S MEDICINE TO OUR PEOPLE!

GET-ON UP, SCOUT!







BLAM!
BANG! BANG!



OWW!
THAT STOP-LIM! THE WAGONS
PROVIDE A MUCH
BETTER PRIZE FOR
THEM THAN WE DO!



BUT WHAT HAPPEN
TO SETTLERS---
---LOOK THERE,
YONTO!



THEY'RE SAFE!
YES WE---WHAT IS BLAZED?
A MASKED MAN!



DON'T LET MY MASK ALARM
YOU! I'M NOT AN
OUTLAW!

---WOLLO! IT MATTER IF YOU WERE, JISTER! ALL
WE WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE WITH WAS SOME
BAGS OF FLOUR! IF YOU DON'T TAKE
'EM, THE APACHES WILL!





NOT A SIGN OF THEIR TRAIL---
THEY HAVE COVERED THEIR
TRACKS WELL!



THEY HAVE NO FOOD SAVE A LITTLE
FLOUR AT THE MOST! IF THEY DO NOT
WISH TO STARVE, THEY MUST
FOLLOW THE REGULAR **ANSON**
TRAIL WEST ON FOOT TO THE
NEXT PORT! BUT WE SHALL
AMUSE THEM ALONG
THAT ROAD!

BY DUNK, THE LONE RANGER HAS GUIDED THE SETTLERS WELL INTO THE WASTELAND---



KIND SAAVY THERE
OLD **BUFFALO** TRACE!

GOOD WORK, TONTO! WE'LL
TURN TO FOLLOW IT!



THE FORTS DUE WEST!
WHY ARE WE CUTTING
SOUTH TO GO ALONG
AN OLD **BUFFALO**
TRAIL?

THE **BUFFALO** KNOW
WHERE TO FIND **WATER**
EVEN IN A WASTELAND
LIKE THIS! AT THE END
OF THE TRACE, WE
SHOULD COME UPON
WATER!



WE'D BETTER--OUR
CANTERS ARE **EMPTY**
AND THAT SUN
PROMISES A **WET**
DAY TOMORROW!

AS NIGHT FALLS, A SHIMMERING GLINT OF MOONLIGHT IS REFLECTED AHEAD---

WATER!

THE JACKED MAN WAS RIGHT! THE BUFFALO TRACK DO LEAD US TO A DRINK!



THERE'S ALSO FOOD HERE!



POOF! I JUST SEE SOME SWAMP PLANTS!

TRUE, BUT THIS ARROW-HEAD PLANT CAN PROVIDE A GOOD MEAL!--FIRST, PULL IT OUT BY THE ROOTS!



WHEN YOU BOIL THESE FIBERS AT THE END OF THE ROOTS, THEY'LL TAKE THE PLACE OF POTATOES!



LAND SHARK! WHOEVER THOUGHT YOU COULD PULL POTATOES OUT OF A SWAMP!



BETTER USE ONLY ROTTEN LOGS AND LAY THEM SIDE BY SIDE FOR YOUR FIRES! IN THAT WAY, THERE'LL BE LESS FLAME VISIBLE TO SEARCHING APACHE EYES!



AS THE FIRE IS KINDLED THE WOMEN TAKE THE PREVIOUS FLOUR AND MAKE IT INTO A DOUGH---

WHY ARE YOU LAYING OUT THE DOUGH IN A TWO-INCH-WIDE RIBBON?

THE EASIEST WAY FOR US TO BAKE BREAD OUT HERE WILL BE TO MAKE A TWIST!



THEN KEEP TURNING THE TWIST OVER THE FIRE UNTIL IT'S ALL WELL BROWNED!



TO MAKE IT, WIND YOUR STRIP OF DOUGH AROUND A PEELLED GREEN BIRCH STICK LIKE THIS---



AND THAT NIGHT THE SETTLERS EAT BOILED OR ROASTED SHAMP POTATOES AND TWIST, AND WASH IT DOWN WITH FRESH WATER---ALL FOUND IN THE MIDDLE OF A SEEMINGLY FOODLESS WASTELAND---



BUT THE NEXT DAY, AS THEY MARCH ON TOWARD THE STILL DISTANT FORT, SUDDENLY---

SMOKE!

LOOK! APACHE SIGNAL FIRE!

THEY'RE WELL BEHIND US---BUT NOW, THEY KNOW WE ARE HERE!





THEY FOOLED US,
MAKING US WASTE
TIME IN A JUBISH
ALONG THE MASON
TRAIL!

LET THEM SEE OUR
SIGNAL FIRE WHERE
THEY ARE NOW-- IN
THE WASTELANDS!



KNOWING WE ARE BEHIND THEM,
THEY WILL PUSH ON DEEPER INTO
THE BADLANDS! THEY WILL
FIND NO FOOD AND BY THE TIME
WE REACH THEM, *AWABGER* WILL
HAVE WEAKENED THEM AND
THEY WILL BE AN EASY
PREY!



LATER--

NOW MAY ARE
WE STOPPING?

HERE'S A LIKELY
PLACE TO TURN UP
SOME FRESH
VEGETABLES!



FRESH VEGETABLES
THERE-- IN THAT
DRY RIVERSBANK!

YES! THAT'S WHERE
GOPHERS USUALLY
CACHE THEIR SUPPLY OF
VEGETABLES WHEN THEY
FIND SOME OUT ON THE
PLAINS!



GOOD! THE GROUND IS VERY SOFT
HERE, AS IF THE EARTH WERE DIG
UP AND THEN COVERED OVER!
LET'S SEE WHAT WE FIND
WHEN WE DIG HERE!



A FOOT BELOW THE SURFACE--

DRY

GRASS-- WE'RE IN LUCK!
GOPHERS ALWAYS COVER
THEIR CACHE WITH GRASS!
WE'VE FOUND MORE
FOOD!

AND THEN, UNDER THE GRASS, THE LONG RANGER UNCOVERS THE GOBERNOR'S CACHE PERFECTLY PRESERVED VEGETABLES, WHOSE ROOTS AND TOPS HAVE ALREADY BEEN TRIMMED—



BUT AS THEY ADVANCE UNDER A CLOUDLESS SKY AND A FERCE SUN—

WE RATIONED OUR WATER STRICTLY—BUT ONLY HAVE FIVE CANTERNS AND NOW THEY'RE ALL *BONE DRY!*



THERE ARE OTHER "CANTERNS" ON THE DESERT WAITING TO BE TAPPED! THE *SILVERADO CACTUS* STORES A GREAT DEAL OF WATER IN ITS STEMS AND BRANCHES!



AND IT KEEPS THE WATER COOL! — *DRINK!*

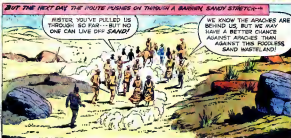


MEANWHILE— THEY CAMPED HERE LAST NIGHT!



THEY ARE ON FOOT—WE ARE MOUNTED! THEY CANNOT ESCAPE US LONG! *JOSEF GAY!*









DOWN! TONTO!



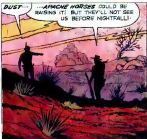
RANGY!



NOW WE CAN FEAST UNDISTURBED!



DUST! ...ANYONE WOULD BE HAVING IT! BUT THEY'LL NOT SEE US BEFORE NIGHTFALL!



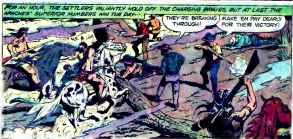
WE'VE USED THE LAST OF OUR FLOUR, BUT WE'D NEVER HAVE GOTTEN THIS FUR WITHOUT BAKED!

AND THANKS TO THE MASKED MAN, WE'VE HAD A VARIETY OF THINGS TO GO WITH IT!



AT DUSK, TONTO AND I SAW DUST! THE APACHES ARE NEAR! THEY'LL NOT FIND YOU UNTIL AFTER DAWN! BUT IF TONTO AND I RIDE ALL NIGHT, WE MAY BE ABLE TO REACH THE FORT AND BE BACK WITH TROOPS IN TIME!





BUT SUDDENLY A BUGLE SOUNDS SHARPLY---



AND AS THE CAVALRY CLOSES IN, THE APACHES ARE TOPPLED FROM THEIR HORSES UNDER THE DEADLY WITHERING FIRE---



QUICKLY THE BOWS ARE DISCARDED---



AND WE'D NEVER
HAVE SURVIVED IN
THESE WASTELANDS
IF IT WEREN'T FOR
THE KNOWLEDGE
OF A MASKED MAN,
WHOSE NAME WE
DON'T EVEN KNOW!

ONCE YOU SETTLE OUT
WEST, YOU'LL FIND
EVERYONE KNOWS HE'S
---THE LONE RANGER!

HA-VEE JERRY!
AWAY!



ways of the WILD HORSE

One of the most amazing things about the wild horse was his ability to live on wild grass alone, without the need of oats, wheat, corn and other cultivated foods to survive. The Spanish Explorers who first brought the mustang or "mustang" to our Southwest territory never would have believed their stray horses would one day develop into a sturdy wild breed.



The horse could find food even in winter. Burning, late-summer, sun-dried grasses of the plains provided good hay, and the wild band of horses had only to paw away the snow to reach it. Gradually, the few horses the Spaniards lost multiplied until there were large herds ranging the Great Plains.



A great stallion became the leader of each band of mustangs. He watched over the mares and colts that made up his family, and guided them to good grass and shelter. But sometimes a strange stallion met the band and challenged the old leader. At such times a battle took place with all the band watching to see who would be victorious. Then, the losing stallion would run away, leaving the other the undisputed master of the herd.



The wild ones had many enemies. Sometimes, the enormous buffalo herds thundered down onto a wild horse band and engulfed them in a stampede. The mountain lion came sometimes to steal a colt, and the wolf was always ready to attack. When a pack of wolves caught a group of horses where they could not run away, a great battle took place. Many a dangerous wolf was kicked into oblivion by the well-used heels of a mustang mother protecting her colt.

the Lone Ranger

THE CALL OF WILD HORSE VALLEY

SOON AFTER THE LONE RANGER ACCORDS SILVER, HE AND TONTO RIDE BY THE ENTRANCE TO WILD HORSE VALLEY.

KIND SABBAN SILVER LOOK PLUNTY LONG AT VALLEY PASS!

YES, TONTO! IT MUST RECALL MEMORIES--THE VALLEY WAS HIS HOME BEFORE WE FOUND HIM!

WE'LL CAMP BY THIS STREAM TONIGHT, TONTO!

LOHN! THERE PLUNTY KINDLING WOOD HERE!

THAT NIGHT, AS THE LONE RANGER AND TONTO BED DOWN, A STRANGE RESTLESSNESS AWOKE SILVER AWAKE! EACH GUST OF WIND FROM THE VALLEY BRINGS THE SCENT OF HIS HOMELAND TO THE GREAT WHITE SALLAH! SOON THE TEMPTATION TO REVISIT IT IS TOO STRONG--SILVER SNAPS HIS TETHER--

UNRESTRAINED BY ROPE OR REIN, SILVER STARTS FOR THE PASS!

SILVER? WHOA, BOY! HERE, SILVER!

THE SOUND OF THE MASKED MAN'S VOICE BRINGS SILVER UP BACK!! AGAIN THE MASKED RIDER CALLS AND THE STALLION TURNS TO LOOK BACK---



FOR THE MOMENT, THE INSTINCTIVE DRIVE TO THE VALLEY IS STILLED! SILVER FROTS BACK TOWARD CAMP---

BUT AS HE RETURNS, A BURR SCRATCHES AND THEN PAINFULLY STICKS TO HIS SIDE---



SILVER COMPLAINS WITH SHORT WHINNERS! CAREFULLY, THE LONG RANGER SEES THE CAUSE OF SILVER'S PAIN AND THEN HE SEES THE BURR---



THEN THE MASKED MAN BATHES THE SORE SHOT WITH COOLING WATER, AND ONCE AGAIN SILVER EXPERIENCES THE KINDNESS OF THE MAN AND IS GLAD HE DIDN'T RUN OFF TO THE VALLEY---

BUT IN THE MORNING SILVER NERVOUSLY RIMS THE GROUND, AS THE VALLEY SEEMS TO BECOMING MORE STRONGLY NOW---



SILVER SEES THE ARMED MAN HURRYING NOW! HE TRIES TO STAY NEAR THE LONG BRANCH, BUT SOME DEEP INSTINCT FORCE SLOWLY BUT SURELY LEADS HIM TOWARD THE VALLEY---



IT'S NO USE, TONY! SILVER CAN'T RESIST THE CALL OF WILD HORSE VALLEY! THE MEMORIES OF HIS UNFETTERED YOUTH ARE ALL CENTERED THERE---THE SIGHT OF IT JUST URGES TO SEND HIS PAST WILD FREEDOM!



BUT YOU NOT LEFT-UM, OGG, KENO SABAY?

IT'S NOT FAIR TO HOLD HIM BACK, TONY! SILVER SERVED ME WELL! WITHOUT HIM I WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BRING THE CAVENDISH GANG TO JUSTICE! BUT NOW, IT'S NOT RIGHT TO KEEP HIM FROM THE PLACE HE SEEKS BY INSTINCT!



THE SADDLE AND REINS ARE OFF, SILVER! I KNOW I'LL NEVER FIND ANOTHER HORSE LIKE YOU--



BUT IF RETURNING TO WILD HORSE VALLEY IS WHAT YOU REALLY WANT TO GO---
OGG, SILVER!

HIM START FOR PASS!
YOU NOT SEE-UM AGAIN!



AT A GENTLE TROT SILVER STARTS FOR THE VALLEY SLOWLY AT FIRST, LOOKING BACK AT HIS MASKED FRIEND---



THEN HE TURNS HIS HEAD AND FACING THE VALLEY! HIS WHITE HAND WRING, HE GALLOPS AWAY FROM THE LONE RANGER AND FOR THE RACE---



IT WASN'T AN EASY THING TO DO, TONTO---BUT THE EVIL DAY THINGS SURELY ARE!...I'LL REMAIN HERE IN CAMP WHILE YOU FIND A HORSE FOR ME!

LOKE BUT TONTO KNOW HIM NEVER FIND HORSE LIKE SILVER!



THROUGH THE PASS SILVER RACES! HIS EYES FLASH AS THEY SEE THE OLD FAMILIAR LAND-SCAPE! HERE HE WAS BORN! HERE HE WAS RAISED AND PROVED HIMSELF! HERE HE BELONGS, LEADING HIS PROUD BAND OF MUSTANGS---



BUT SUDDENLY AN EVIL SCOUT FILLS SILVER'S HORTRAIL! WHOES! HE HOMES SWIFTY FORWARD AND THEN HE HEARS THE TERRIFIED WHINNY OF A MARE! THE BAND OF MUSTANGS HAS BEEN BROKEN! THE STRENGTH THEIR UNITY GAVE THEM IS GONE! NOW EACH LONE HORSE IS PREY TO THE ROVING PACK---



DOWNWARD OF THE PACK, SILVER GALLOPS AFTER THE FRIGHTENED MARE'S PURSUERS, HOPING TO BE UPON THEM BEFORE THEY SEE HER----



INTENT UPON THE FLEEING MARE, THE PACK LOOKS ONLY FORWARD AS SUDDENLY THE GREAT WHITE STALLION REACHES IT----

REFRAINING TO FLEE HIS FOWLISH, SILVER KICKS POWERFULLY, CATCHING A WOLF SQUARELY----



AS FLAILING HOOFES STRIKE TERROR INTO THE PACK, BUT THE WOLF LEADER LOOPS OFF FROM THE FIGHT, MAKING A WIDE CIRCLE TO COME UP BEHIND SILVER----



WITH A SAVAGE GROWL, THE COWING PACK LEADER SPRINGS AT SILVER FROM THE REAR, HOPING TO HANDBIND THE STALLION----



BUT A HORSE'S EYES ARE PLACED SO HE CAN SEE
ALMOST BEHIND HIMSELF. JUST IN TIME SILVER
SPOTTING, AS THE PACK LEADER'S JAWS SNAP
VICIOUSLY....



THEN SILVER LUNGES AND HIS TEETH CLOSE
AROUND THE PACK LEADER'S FURRY NECK....

AS THE HELPLESS LEADER SQUEALS IN
PAIN, SILVER TORSES HIM HIGH INTO
THE AIR....



ATTRACTED BY THE TERRIFICALLY BURNING OF SILVER, THE SCATTERED MUSTANGS COME DAP IN
ONE FROM THE WOODS, AS BELOW THEM, THEY SEE THE VALIANT WHITE HORSE FIGHTING THE
PACK ALONE....



AGAIN AND AGAIN SILVER STRIKES ANY WOLF
BRAVE ENOUGH TO ADVANCE TOWARD HIM!
THEN THE WHOLE PACK HARRIES HIM ON
ALL SIDES---



BUT RALLIED BY THE COURAGE OF THEIR
FORMER LEADER, THE MUSTANGS TEAR INTO THE
PACK, BITING AND KICKING---



UNDER THE SUDDEN ATTACK OF A REUNITED BAND OF FIERCE MUSTANGS, THE WOLVES ARE
EASILY MAULED---



STILL STANDING FIRM AND FIRM, THE
PACK SLINGS OFF IN DEFEAT! THE MUSTANGS
GIGGLE ABOUT SILVER BRAGGING JEALOUSLY! THE
BAND IS RE-FOUNDED! THEIR LEADER HAS
RETURNED TO WILD HORSE VALLEY--

BUT ONE POWERFUL BLACK BULLION EYES
SILVER JEALOUSLY! NOT FOR LONG WILL HIS
REIGN OVER THE HERD REMAIN
UNCHALLENGED!



THAT NIGHT, AS HE STANDS GUARD OVER HIS REUNITED BAND BACK IN WILD HORSE VALLEY, SILVER IS STILL NOT CONTENT! HE MISSES THE SIGHT OF THE CAMPFIRE AND THE COMPANIONSHIP OF THE MASKED MAN---



NEXT DAY THE BLACK STALLION FRANCES BACK AND FORTH IN FRONT OF SILVER, BAWNYING AND WHISTLING CHALLENGEINGLY---



EARS Laid BACK FLAT, MOUTHS OPEN AND READY, THE TWO STALLIONS APPROACH EACH OTHER, THEIR SHARP FOREFEET WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO STRIKE---

FOR AN HOUR, THEY BAKE EACH OTHER WITH THEIR HOOPS, STROKE EACH OTHER WITH THE FULL WRIST OF THEIR POWERFUL BODIES, BUT NEITHER HORSE GAINS THE ADVANTAGE---



SUDDENLY A STORM BREAKS AND AS LIGHTNING STREAKS ACROSS THE DARKENING SKY, THE HORSES SEPARATE---



THE BLACK TURNS FOR OPEN GROUND GALLOPING FROM THE BAND OVER WHICH SILVER IS STILL THE MASTER---



BUT ONCE OUT OF SIGHT, THE WILY BLACK DOUBLES BACK---



AS SILVER, BATTLE-WEARY, RESTS, THE BLACK THUNDERS DOWN ON THE MUSTANGS AND DRIVES THEM OFF---



WITH HIPS AND HINDERS, THE BLACK SENDS THE STOLEN HORSES OFF BEFORE HIM, AS SILVER LEAPS UP TO GIVE CHASE---



BUT SUDDENLY THE GREAT WHITE STALLION IS FORCED TO HALT! HIS FOREFEET THROBS WITH PAIN! A BURN IS BURIED DEEPLY IN IT, MAKING PURSUIT IMPOSSIBLE---



BUT HERE, THERE IS NO BLASSED MAN, WHOSE UNDERSTANDING KNOWLEDGE CAN HELP SILVER! THE ABANDONED MAN'S COMFORTING TOUCH IS GONE, SILVER IS NOW ON HIS OWN---



ALL NIGHT, SILVER WORKS FORTHFULLY TRYING TO REMOVE THE BURR! AT DAWN, THE BURR FALLS OUT---



THEN SILVER RACES OFF TO FIND THE BLACK AND REJOIN HIS BAND---



SOON, SILVER SEES THE BLACK, ALERT AND READY, GUARDING THE STOLEN MUSTANGS---



SILVER WHINNIES AN ANGRY CHALLENGE AND THE BLACK STALLION ADVANCES TOWARD HIM, BOTH HORSES REALIZING THIS WILL BE A FIGHT TO THE FINISH.



AS THE BAND WATCHES TO SEE WHICH HORSE WILL WIN FINAL JUSTIFY OVER IT, THE TWO STALLIONS LOCK IN GRIM COMBAT---



SUDDENLY THE BLACK FINDS AN OPENING AND BITES AT SILVER'S THROAT, HOPING TO SEVER HIS JUGULAR VEIN---



BUT A SHARP DOWNWARD BLOW OF SILVER'S POWERFUL LED FORCES THE BLACK OFF---



TURNING QUICKLY SILVER HURLS HIS WHOLE WEIGHT AGAINST THE BLACK! HE CATCHES HIM OFF BALANCE---

DOWN THE BLACK FALLS! NOW HE IS AT THE MERCY OF SILVER'S HOOF! A FEW QUICK BLOWS AND THE BLACK WILL BE MOTHELLESS NEVER TO CHALLENGE HIM AGAIN---



BUT THE TRIUMPHANT SILVER NEVER DELIVERS THE FINAL BLOW! THE BLACK STALLION HAS PROVED HIMSELF A DAWE AND CLEVER LEADER! NOW SILVER IS WILLING TO LEAVE THE BAND OF WILD HORSES TO THE BLACK---

FOR SILVER HAS LEARNED ON HIS RETURN TO WILD HORSE VALLEY THAT THERE IS SOMETHING OUTSIDE THE VALLEY WHOSE CALL IS EVEN STRONGER THAN THAT OF THE VALLEY--THE MASKED MAN'S UNDERSTANDING FRIENDSHIP...



MEANWHILE, AT THE LONE RANGERS CAMP...

HE BRING US THE HORSE KENO SABAY! WE NOT FIND AS SILVER, BUT YOU CAN RIDE US WHILE WE GO ON SEARCHING FOR HORSE TO REPLACE SILVER!

THAT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY NOW, TONTO! LOOK!



AT THE SIGHT OF THE MASKED MAN SILVER WHINNIES JOYFULLY AND GALLOPS FASTER TOWARD HIM! TRUE, THE CALL OF WILD HORSE VALLEY TOOK HIM FROM THE MASKED MAN, BUT IF HE HAD NOT GONE THERE, SILVER WOULD NEVER HAVE REALIZED THE STRENGTH OF HIS BOND WITH THE LONE RANGER...



SILVER BACK, KENO SABAY!

AND SINCE HE RETURNED OF HIS OWN FREE WILL, TONTO IT MEANS HE'LL ALWAYS REMAIN WITH ME!



EMERELY SILVER STEADIES HIMSELF AS THE MASKED MAN SADDLES HIM! THEN TURNING HIS BACK ON WILD HORSE VALLEY HE RACES FORWARD TO THE FAMILIAR RINGING CRY OF THE LONE RANGER...





THE LONE RANGER



HIS BULLETS

When The Lone Ranger first donned his mask and rode off from his mine with Tonto, on the trail of the Cavendish gang, in his gunbelt there gleamed a row of silver bullets.

No other rider in the west loads his guns with bullets of silver and The Lone Ranger deliberately chose those unique bullets for his own. He wanted them to represent a shining symbol of justice by law. He knew that, in time, word would spread of the masked rider's unusual bullets. Then the sight of a silver bullet would tell a lawman that help was nearby and warn an outlaw that his defeat was inevitable.

Each of his .45 bullets is individually molded. And each of his solid silver bullets contains enough of the bright metal to make two silver dollars.

